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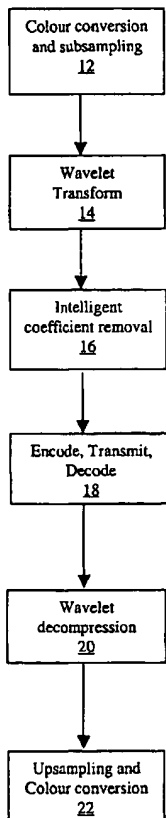
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(54) Title: DATA COMPRESSION FOR COLOUR IMAGES USING WAVELET TRANSFORM



(57) Abstract: The invention describes a wavelet compression method for colour converted image planes (Y, Cb and Cr), wherein a relatively low (e.g. zero) degree of compression is performed in areas of an original colour image having relatively higher importance, and a relatively higher degree of compression in those areas indicated to be of lower importance. It performs a hierarchical encoding of a reduced wavelet image by discarding wavelet coefficients which satisfy the two criteria of firstly corresponding to image areas of relatively lower importance and secondly being below a certain wavelet coefficient threshold. The wavelet coefficient threshold is determined from a calculation of cumulative histogram to remove a percentage of the image and can be specified as an input parameter by a user.

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